

**[Jesse Perez]**

Accession no.

W 3629

Date received

10/10/40

Consignment no.

1

Shipped from

Wash. Office

Label

Amount

4p

WPA L. C. PROJECT Writers' UNIT

Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title Packinghouse worker

Place of origin Chicago, Illinois Date 6/21/39

Project worker Betty Burke

## Library of Congress

Project editor

Remarks

W3629

Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview [American Lines?]

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

Jul 6 - 1939

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy

DATE June 21, 1939

SUBJECT Packing House Worker

1. Date and time of interview June 21, 7:30 pm.
2. Place of interview 4817 Ashland Ave. workers home
3. Name and address of informant Jesse Perez 4817 Ashland Ave.

## Library of Congress

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. None

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. None

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

2nd floor flat above a store on a business street. 7 or 8 rooms. Rent out some rooms. God furniture, plain, in half the house. Other rooms totally empty. Finds it hard to pay the rent but likes the large rooms and the fact that there is a modern bathroom so much that he would rather struggle along there than move.

FORM B

### Personal History of Informant

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy St.

DATE JUNE 21, 1939

SUBJECT Packinghouse worker's job

NAME OF INFORMANT Jesse Perez

1. Ancestry Mexican

## Library of Congress

2. Place and date of birth

3. Family Polish wife, three small children

4. Places lived in, with dates

5. Education, with dates

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with e dates Voluntary organiser [for?] P.W.O.C.

7. Special skills and interests Interested in union work and in political affairs, especially local yards activity.

8. Community and religious activities

9. Description of informant Unusually tall for Mexican-6 feet at least-speaks English not so well, Spanish perfectly. Looks like a Spaniard, Extremely fond of his children.

10. Other Points gained in interview

FORM C

Text of Interview (Unedited )

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy St.

## Library of Congress

DATE June 21, 1939

SUBJECT Packinghouse worker

NAME OF INFORMANT Jesse Perez

The bosses in the yards never treat Mexican worker same as rest. For 'sample, they been treatin' me, well, ever since I start wearin' the button they start to pick an' 'scriminate. I was first to wear CIO button.

I start in as laborer. Get 62 1/2 cents hour. I get laid-off slip from fellow who has to leave town, that's how I get in employment office. Now I work as beef lugger, carryin't the beef on cuttin' floor. Work is heavier than laborer, make 72¢ hour.

I can butcher, but they won't give me job. They fired me on account of CIO union one time. I started organize the boys on the gang. I was acting as steward for CIO union. We had so much speed up and I was advisin' the boys to cut the speed and so when I start tellin' the boys we have a union for them they all join up. Almos' all join right away. So we talk all the time what the union goin' to do for us, goin' raise wages, stop speed-up, an' the bosses watch an' they know it's a union [comin'?].

So every day they start sayin' we behin' in the work. They start speedin' up the boys more an' more every day.

FORM D

Extra Comment

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

## Library of Congress

State Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy St.

DATE June 21, 1939

SUBJECT Packinghouse worker's job

NAME OF INFORMANT Jesse Perez

The boys ask me, what you gonna do? Can't keep on speed-up like this. We made stoppage. Tol' bosses we workin' too fast, can't keep up. The whole gang, thirteen men, they all stop. Bosses come an' say, we ain't standin' for nothin' like this. So 4 days later they fire the whole gang, except 2. So we took the case in the labor board and they call the boys for witness. Labor board say we got to get jobs back. Boss got to promise to put us back as soon as they can. That time was slack, but now all work who was fired. All got work.

Now the bosses try to provoke strike before CIO get ready, before the men know what to do. Foremen always try to get in argument about work, to make the boys mad so they quit work. We know what they do, we don't talk back, got to watch out they don't play trick like that.

#